

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A container comprising:

a container body having an edge delimiting an aperture;

a rigid, removable protective element having a perimeter, a first side and a second side, said first side having at least one rib extending about said perimeter and at least one interrupted area disposed at said perimeter of said protective element, at least a portion of said at least one interrupted area being positioned adjacent said edge of said container body, said protective element being supported on said edge and forming a seal between said protective element and said edge, said protective element further including a gripping element located on said second side and aligned with said at least one interrupted area, wherein said protective element is adapted to separate at a location corresponding to said at least one interrupted area in response to an upward force to said gripping element~~an outer surface of said protective element, said gripping element being of an elongated form and defining a Y axis; and~~

~~a tearing element being disposed at a location either along said Y axis or perpendicular to said Y axis, whereby when said protective element is attempted to be separated from said edge, said tearing element creates a tear in said seal so as to facilitate removal of said protective element from said edge.~~

2. (currently amended) A container according to claim 1, wherein said protective element is configured in the form of a cup, said perimeter protective element further including a raised peripheral edge, said raised peripheral edge being supported on said edge of said container body.

3. (currently amended) A container according to claim 2, wherein said gripping element has at least two sides and said first side of said protective element has at least two interrupted areas, ~~and wherein said gripping element having a proximal end and a distal end arranged~~ tearing element is arranged in the vicinity of said peripheral edge of said protective element and along said a Y axis, wherein said proximal and distal ends are aligned with said at least two interrupted areas on said two sides of said gripping element.

4. (currently amended) A container according to claim 1, wherein said perimeter of said protective element includes a peripheral edge supported on said edge of said container body and said first side has at least two interrupted areas, said gripping element has at least two sides, and wherein said sides of said gripping ~~tearing element are~~ is arranged in the vicinity of said peripheral edge of said protective element and aligned with said at least two interrupted areas ~~along said Y axis on said two sides of said gripping element.~~

5. (cancelled).

6. (cancelled).

7. (currently amended) A container according to claim 3, wherein said ~~tearing element is also~~ first side has two additional interrupted areas which are proximal and distal ends arranged in the vicinity of said peripheral edge of said protective element along an axis perpendicular ~~traverse~~ to said Y axis on said two sides of said gripping element.

8. (currently amended) A container according to claim 4, wherein said first side has two additional interrupted areas which are ~~tearing element is also~~ arranged in the vicinity of

~~said peripheral edge of said protective element~~ along an axis perpendicular to said Y axis on said ~~two sides~~ proximal and distal ends of said gripping element.

9. (cancelled).

10. (cancelled).

11. (cancelled).

12. (cancelled).

13. (cancelled).

14. (cancelled).

15. (cancelled).

16. (cancelled).

17. (currently amended) A container according to claim 91, wherein said first side of said protective element ~~comprises~~ includes a plurality of ~~annular, concentric~~ said ribs.

18. (currently amended) A container according to claim 102, wherein said first side of said protective element ~~comprises~~ includes a plurality of ~~annular, concentric~~ said ribs.

19. (currently amended) A container according to claim 113, wherein said first side of said protective element ~~comprises~~ includes a plurality of ~~annular, concentric~~ said ribs.

20. (currently amended) A container according to claim 124, wherein said first side of said protective element ~~comprises~~ includes a plurality of ~~annular, concentric~~ said ribs.

21. (currently amended) A container according to claim 13, wherein said first side of said protective element ~~comprises~~ includes a plurality of ~~annular, concentric~~ said ribs.

22. (currently amended) A container according to claim ~~14~~7, wherein said protective element comprises a plurality of annular, concentric ribs.

23. (cancelled).

24. (cancelled).

25. (currently amended) A container according to claim 1, wherein said protective element ~~comprises~~ includes a molded thermoplastic material.

26. (original) A container according to claim 1, said container body is configured in the form of a pot.

27. (currently amended) A container according to claim 1, ~~including~~ wherein said container includes a recess adapted for receiving product, further comprising a lid intended to seal said aperture overlay said recess of in said container body.

28. (currently amended) A container according to claim 27, wherein ~~when said lid is in the~~ has a fitted position on said container body such that when said lid is in said fitted position, said lid axially immobilizes said protective element relative to said container.

29. (original) A container according to claim 1, wherein said container is used for packaging a cosmetic product.